

FLD 204

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Bulgarian Troops and Installations in the Sofia Area	DATE DISTR.	30 October 1953	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. An inscription at the entrance to the northeastern building of the barracks installation on the northwest side of 9 September Boulevard (formerly General Totelben Boulevard), in the southwestern sector of the city of Sofia, indicated that the installation was occupied by a motor transport regiment prior to the spring of 1952. The soldiers wore ski trousers, black collar patches and cap bands, red epaulets, and small metal insignia of sedans on their left breast.

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The installation was formerly occupied by the 1 Motor Transport Regiment and the other drivers of the War Ministry also parked their motor vehicles there.

During this period, the regiment had a strength of approximately 500 men and was equipped with about 50 trucks and about 80 sedans, including the motor vehicles of the War Ministry. Informant stated that drivers of the Sofia post were trained by the Motor Transport Regiment.

- 25X1 2. In May 1952, [redacted] learned [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] that this regiment was located in the middle block of the barracks installation, on the northwest side of 9 September Boulevard. Between May 1946 and October 1947, an engineer regiment, referred to by residents as the 1 Engineer Regiment because it was quartered in the building previously occupied by the 1 Engineer Regiment, was located in this barracks block. At that time, the engineer regiment included engineers, telephone and radio operators, and a motor transport unit. The members of the engineer regiment wore ski trousers, black collar patches and cap bands,

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red epaulets, and crossed-shovel-and-pick axe brass devices as insignia on their left breast. In the spring of 1952, [] learned [] that after the deactivation of the 4 Engineer Regiment in Pleven, in 1949, [] the engineer regiment located in the barracks installation on 9 September Boulevard, and that other components of the regiment moved to Ruse and Byala. Prior to the spring of 1952, the barracks block of the engineer regiment bordered to the northeast on the government-controlled Zavod # 12 which was formerly an Army factory, served by a railroad spur.

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3. In 1950, [] learned [] that a signal regiment was located west of the main railroad station in the barracks installation on the northwest side of General Stoletov Street, occupied by the old telegraph regiment (sic).

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4. [] the Political Officers' School was located in the billets of the former Artillery Officer Candidate School, in the same barracks installation on the northwest side of General Stoletov Street. [] was told [] that the school was attended by soldiers and officers of various ranks and included 9-month courses, and that the political officers wore a dark-red service color.

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5. [] a Border Guard unit was also located in the barracks installation on the northwest side of General Stoletov Street. [] observed a Border Guard soldier at the entrance to the installation who wore a green service color, a patch with a dog-head badge and, on the left side of his breast, a metal device representing a soldier with a dog. [] the Border Guard units were placed under the control of the Ministry of Interior in late 1947.

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6. Prior to July 1952, a Guards Cavalry unit occupied the Guards Cavalry barracks located approximately in the center of the city on the north side of General Zaimov Boulevard (formerly Regentska Boulevard). The soldiers of the unit wore the old-style blue guard uniform with white service color and the new national emblem, a five-pointed star device, on the front side of their caps.

7. Prior to July 1952, the Military Technical Academy was located in the billets of the former Reserve Officers' School in the ordnance depot area on the east side of Karavelov Boulevard, in the southern sector of the city. []

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8. Prior to July 1952, the school for the railroad troops was located in the barracks installation of the railroad regiment (sic), north of the ordnance depot area, on the east side of the southernmost part of Stalin Boulevard (formerly Tsaritsa Ioanna Boulevard). The school trained engine drivers of the Bulgarian Railways who were serving in the armed forces. Students of the school wore black Army-style uniforms with crossed-vise insignia on the collar perches.

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9. [] the school was located, prior to the spring of 1952, in the infantry barracks adjoining the east side of Stalin Boulevard to the north. This installation was occupied in and after World War II by the 1 and 6 Infantry Regiments.

10. Prior to March 1952, an antiaircraft artillery regiment was located in the barracks installation east of Church Street, in the southeastern sector of the city, east of the military school. The soldiers of the unit wore black service color and breeches.

11. Prior to late 1951, the so-called railroad school, whose trainees received instruction in telegraph communications, was located north of the ordnance depot area on the east side of Stalin Boulevard.

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12. Prior to January 1952, an old barracks installation referred to as the Bodyguards Barracks (sic) was still located in the north side of Gen. Zaimov Boulevard. The former artillery barracks which was to the east was torn down.
13. Prior to late 1951, a barracks installation extending to the north as far as Patriarch Eftimi Boulevard and referred to by the population as the 1 and 6 Infantry barracks, was located on the east side of Stalin Boulevard.
14. Prior to January 1952, an officers' training school was located in the buildings south of the eastern extension of Shipka Street, southeast of Gottwald Boulevard (formerly Georgiev Boulevard).
15. The former cavalry barracks on the northeast side of Ruski Boulevard (formerly Nikolayevich Boulevard), was occupied by an unidentified tank unit.
16. Prior to January 1952, a motorized artillery regiment was located in a barracks installation, completed about 1948, and located on the northeast side of the road to Plovdiv, about three kilometers southeast of Sofia.
17. Prior to June 1952, approximately eight antiaircraft guns of approximately 70 mm. caliber were emplaced on the southeastern perimeter of Sofia, on the northeast side of the road to Plovdiv, near the hill of the old Fort Slatinsky. An unidentified number of low wooden buildings was located near the emplacements.
18. Prior to June 1952, approximately 10 heavy antiaircraft guns were emplaced west of the cemetery of Slatina, about three kilometers east-southeast of Sofia, on the north side of the road to Slatina.
19. Prior to June 1952, approximately eight antiaircraft guns of approximately 70 mm. caliber were emplaced north of the barracks installation of the Sofia 1 Guards Infantry Division on Chaussee Fourth Kilometer, on the northeast side of the road to Plovdiv. An unidentified number of low wooden buildings were located near the guns. The antiaircraft artillery troops wore black service color and breeches.
20. Prior to the fall of 1951, [REDACTED] observed six to eight light and approximately 10 heavy antiaircraft guns in emplacements on the southeastern perimeter of Sofia, on the hill of the old Fort Slatinsky.

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